

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 NIC-01 SAJ-01 AF-10 CCO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 NEA-10 USSS-00 DRC-01 /159 W

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P 181534Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7587

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 4723

E.O. 11652: N:A

TAGS: YO PFOR

SUBJECT: YUGOSLAVS CONFIRM SOVIET OVERFLIGHTS

REFERENCE: BELGRADE 4631

1. AFTER A WEEK OF TURNING AWAY INQUIRIES ON THE SUBJECT, FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECRETARIAT PRESS SPOESMAN MILAN ZUPAN CONFIRMED SOVIET OVERFLIGHTS IN AN OCTOBER 18 PRESS CONFERENCE.

2. COUCHING HIS REMARKS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF YUGOSLAVIA'S RESPONSIBILITY AS A NONALIGNED COUNTRY TO AID THE ARAB COUNTRIES IN THEIR STRUGGLE AGAINST AGRESSION, ZUPAN SAID "AS LONG AS ARAB COUNTRIES ARE EXPOSED TO AGGRESSION, YUGOSLAVIA WILL, WITHIN ITS CAPACITIES, PROVIDE MORAL, POLITICAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT AND AID, INCLUDING THE FACILITIES WHICH THE ARAB COUNTRIES REQUEST FROM US REGARDING THE USE OF OUR AIR SPACE FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF THE AID THEY NEED."

3. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION WHETHER THE US AND YUGOSLAVIA HAD CONSULTED ON THE MIDEAST CONFLICT, ZUPAN SAID THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE IN PERMANENT CONTACT ON ITEMS OF

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MUTUAL INTEREST, INCLUDING BOTH THOSE ON WHICH THEY AGREE AND THOSE ON WHICH THEY DISAGREE.IT WAS YUGOSLAVIA'S VIEW,

HE CONTINUED THAT DISAGREEMENT ON SOME ISSUES SHOULD NOT
DETER FROM CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS.

4. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION WHETHER THE US HAD ASKED YUGOSLAVIA
TO CLOSE ITS AIRSPACE TO SOVIET FLIGHTS, ZUPAN SAID HE HAD
NOTHING TO ADD TO HIS PREVIOUS STATEMENT.

5. ZUPAN ALSO HAD NO RESPONSE TO A QUESTION WHETHER THE
SOVIET FLIGHTS WERE CIVILIAN OR MILITARY, TO A QUERY WHETHER
SOVIET FLIGHTS WERE LANDING IN YUGOSLAVIA,
ZUPAN SAID "THERE HAVE BEEN VARIOUS SEPCULATIONS
ON THIS."
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